

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 2, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12 and 16 are hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, 15-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,419,164 to *Durazzani* (hereinafter "*Durazzani*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, "the reference must teach every element of the claim." The Applicant respectfully submits that *Durazzani* does not teach every element recited in claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, 15-18 and 20 and therefore cannot anticipate these claims. More specifically, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite a drum-type washing machine having a self-balancing outer tub assembly which includes, among other features, "a front outer tub having an open front and rear, the front outer tub comprising a first material and a second material different from the first material, wherein the second material is combined with the first material." *Durazzani* fails to disclose this feature. Rather, *Durazzani* discloses counterweights (6 and 7) enclosed in plastic shells (8 and 9). However, the material associated with the counterweights is not "combined with" the material (i.e., the plastic) associated with the shells, as required by claims 1 and 11.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 11 are patentably distinguishable over *Durazzani*, and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claims 2, 5-8, 10, 12, 15-18, and 20 which variously depend from claims 1 and 11 are also patentable for at least the same reason.

The Office Action rejected claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Durazzani* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,196,506 to *Tamai et al.* (hereinafter "*Tamai*") or U.S. Patent No. 5,171,769 to *Bull et al.* (hereinafter "*Bull*") or U.S. Patent No. 4,136,079 to *Katayama et al.* (hereinafter "*Katayama*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to "establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." As shown above, *Durazzani* fails to teach or suggest a drum-type washing machine having a self-balancing outer tub assembly which includes, among other features, "a front outer tub having an open front and rear, the front outer tub comprising a first material and a second material different from the first material, wherein the second material is combined with the first material." *Tamai*, *Bull* and *Katayama* all fail to address the previously noted shortcomings of *Durazzani*, namely "the second material is combined with the first material." Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 are patentable over *Durazzani*, in view of *Tamai*, *Bull* or *Katayama*. The Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 3, 4, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Durazzani*. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Applicant submits that *Durazzani* fails to teach or suggest each and every element recited in claims 9 and 19. As previously discussed *Durazzani* does not disclose all the features recited in claims 1 and 11, the base claims from which claims 9 and 19 depend. Again, claims 1 and 11 recite a drum-type washing machine having a self-balancing outer tub assembly which includes, among other features, "a front outer tub having an open front and rear, the front outer tub comprising a first material and a second material different from the first material, wherein the second material is combined with the first material." *Durazzani* fails to disclose this feature. Accordingly, claims 9 and 19 are patentable over *Durazzani*. The Applicant requests the rejection be withdrawn.

The application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for

allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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